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REPORT

CD NO. 50X1

DATE DISTR. *7 JUNE* 1954

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS. 50X1
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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. With reference to my statement [redacted] that the Ilich Steel Plant at Mariupol had between 240 to 250 "hot" or production days, I would like to add the following information in support of these figures. First, I have seen published production figures in the Soviet Union which grossly exaggerated the true number of "hot" days. The figures I have given are for the Martin furnaces only at the Ilich Plant. I know that a blast furnace has a greater number of "hot" days, but I am unable to give any figures.
2. The figures of 240 to 250 for the Ilich Plant were correct as of 1940-41. I know this because we were constantly using these figures in making out our production estimates and forecasts. Then, too, it is important to note that we were using oil as the fuel in the Martin furnaces at Ilich which accounts for the figures I have given. Use of oil as fuel caused shutdowns more often for repairs. We were constantly being urged to approximate "stakhanovite" production. As a result, workmen became careless and often permitted too much oil to flow into the burners. This invariably caused the crown of the furnace to catch on fire. In fact, most of the trouble with repairs was with the crown rather than the lining, the latter giving us no extraordinary trouble. I know that gas is used as fuel in the Urals, which would account for a greater number of "hot" days than in the Donets plants.
3. There are experimental Martin furnaces with a 15 to 20 ton capacity which have a greater number of "hot" days but it must be noted that actual production with such furnaces is low. There is, for example, a 12 ton type furnace used at the Petrovsky Steel Plant in Dnepropetrovsk which does not need so many "off" days because actual production and capacity is small, thereby reducing wear and tear. These furnaces are hand loaded and the whole process is unhurried. Small capacity Martin furnaces found at rolling mills may have a greater number of "hot" days, such as the Comintern Steel Rolling Mill or the Liebknecht Mill on the outskirts of Dnepropetrovsk, but then they are not engaged in main production processes.

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